

Quick Fishing Facts

(Updated 8/08)

The following is for information only. Refer to the current edition of the *Iowa Fishing Regulations* for a summary of fishing laws.

Who needs a license?

- People age 16 and older
- Licenses are good for one year, 7 days, or 24 hours
- **You must ...**
 - ✓ carry your license when fishing
 - ✓ show your license and catch to any DNR officer who asks to see it
 - ✓ have a license to try to catch fish, frogs, or turtles
 - ✓ also pay a trout fee to fish for trout



Where can I get a license?

- Sporting goods stores, convenience stores, county recorder, some bait shops (for a complete list of vendors in each county, visit www.iowadnr.gov/cs/files/elsivendors.pdf)
- On-line: www.iowadnr.gov
- Call 1-800-367-1188

Where can I go fishing?

- Public (city, county, state, federal) lakes and reservoirs
- Public access areas to rivers and streams (usually have signs)
- **You must get permission from pond owner or person who rents the land** to fish private ponds, lakes, or land next to rivers and streams.

Catching Fish

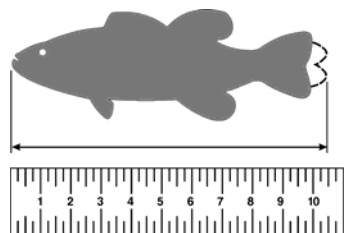
- You can use only hook and line attached to a “pole.”
 - Poles = purchased poles, sticks, handles, cans, etc.
 - Only 2 “poles” per person
 - Only 2 hooks per pole and line (4 total per person)
- You cannot use chemicals, explosives, electricity, or any method other than hook and line

Hooking fish

- Fish (except carp and suckers) hooked anywhere other than the mouth (snagged) must be released immediately.
- Some areas do not allow snagging even for carp or suckers; check rules and regulations for the area where you fish.

Keeping Fish (Size)

- **Check the current *Iowa Fishing Regulations* for specific limits.**
- Some fish must be a certain length (length limit): e.g., largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, walleye (may be different, depending on lake or stream).
- Fish without length limits: bluegill, crappie, carp, catfish, bullheads



Keeping Fish (Number)

- Check the current *Iowa Fishing Regulations* for specific limits.
- You can keep only so many of some kinds of fish each day (daily bag limit): e.g., channel catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, trout, walleye, yellow perch (limits may be different, depending on lake or stream). *Note: There are bag limits on more kinds of fish on the Mississippi River.*
- You can have only so many *total* (possession limit) of fish with daily bag limits.
 - ✓ Includes the daily limit and any fish at home that have not been eaten
 - ✓ Fish must be eaten before any more of the same kind of fish can be caught
- Turtles – you can have no more than 100 pounds of live turtles or 50 pounds of turtle meat.



Transporting Fish

- An officer must be able to tell what kind of fish you have while you are fishing.
- If you clean your fish at a public fish cleaning station, you must leave at least one (1) square inch of skin on all fish or fillets.
- An officer must be able to determine the length of your fish on waters where there are length limits.

One (1)
square
inch

Using Fish, Frogs, or Turtles You Catch

You can...

- Cook and eat your catch, or
- Freeze or can your catch to eat later.

You cannot...

- Sell fish, frogs, or turtles (or their meat) caught from a lake, pond, or stream.
- Stock fish in a public stream or lake

Be good stewards of our resources. Littering is against the law. People who are caught littering will pay a fine. Do not leave empty bait containers, bottles, bags, cans, line, or other garbage on any water, ice or land.